

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-05 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON' UNESCO

SUBJECT: 95 EXBD: 1975-76 BIENNIUM BUDGET

REF: PARIS 22846

1. WITH LENGTHY MEETINGS BEFORE AND WELL AFTER BOARD SESSIONS' EXECUTIVE BOARD WORKING GROUP ON BUDGET IS SLOWLY BUT STEADILY MOVING FORWARD (REFTEL) AND NO FINAL GROUP CONSENSUS HAS YET BEEN REACHED. HOWEVER, EXTENSIVE UK AND FRG BRIEFING AT GENEVA GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 27 INDICATED THAT WORKING GROUP NOW STEERING TOWARDS POSSIBLE COMPROMISE IN \$166 - 168 MILLION RANGE AS BEST OBTAINABLE IN CONTEXT LDC CONCERNS RE PRESERVATION OF PROGRAM.

2. POSSIBLE BUDGET PROPOSAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$166.3 MILLION WOULD BE BASED ON FIXING DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE AT 4.90 FF, 3 PER CENT PROGRAM GROWTH INCLUDING \$900 THOUSAND FOR CHINESE - ARABIC LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION AND INCREASE FROM 2.5 PER CENT TO 5 PER CENT IN SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE EXTRA APPROPRIATION ALLOWED DG, IF DOLLAR WERE TO CONTINUE AT CURRENT ACTUAL EXCHANGE
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RATE OF 4.80 FF.

3. POSSIBLE BUDGET PROPOSAL OF 167.7 WOULD INCLUDE ALL ELEMENTS ABOVE EXCEPT FOR GROWTH RATE OF 4 PER CENT.

4. PARAS 2 AND 3 POSSIBILITIES, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ARE TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF 18 C/5 BUDGET PROPOSAL BASED ON 5.9 PER CENT GROWTH RATE.

5. HOWEVER' WORKING GROUP MET FURTHER OVER WEEKEND AND WILL MEET AFTERNOON OF SEPT 30 TO PRODUCE FORMAL CONSENSUS FOR DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHEU THAT EVENING OR FOLLOWING DAY. LATTER'S ATTITUDE OF COURSE KEY TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CUTS ON \$174 MILLION HIGH. WORKING GROUP SCHEDULED TO PRESENT FINAL CONSENSUS TO BOARD PLENARY SESSION OCTOBER 4.

6. WHILE PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS STILL VERY TENTATIVE, IT NOTEWORTHY THAT MOST GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS PREPARED ACCEPT FIGURE IN \$166 - 168 MILLION AND SOME (UK AND GOJ) WILL GO TO \$170 MILLION. FRG, WHILE STILL EXPRESSING HOPE FOR BUDGET AT OR SLIGHTLY ABOVE \$155 MILLION, NEVERTHELESS FRANKLY STATED THEY ULTIMATELY WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE ISOLATED FROM REST OF GENEVA GROUP. MAJORITY OF LATTER SEEM TO AGREE WITH UK THAT BUDGET TO BE LOOKED AT AS BASICALLY A POLITICAL CHOICE.

7. PERMDEL CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE US UNRELENTING CONCERN FOR HOLDING AT \$155 MILLION. WILL ADVISE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF WORKING GROUP STUDY.
IRWIN

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